
SESSION OF NOVEMBER 1696

CHAPTER 123.

AN ACT FOR RAISING THE RATE OF ONE PENNY PER POUND AND SIX SHILLINGS PER HEAD UPON SUCH AS ARE NOT OTHERWISE RATED THEREBY TO BE IMPLYED BY THE GOVERNOUR FOR THE TIME BEING AS IS HEREINAFTER LIMITED & APPOINTED.

Since it hath pleased the King & Queen to Restore our Proprietary to the Government of this Province & Territories

We the Representatives of the Freemen thereof in Generall Assembly Mett with dutiful Acknowledgments of their Justice & favour in that behalf, & to manifest our Affecons to the King, as well as our readiness to Answer his Expectations in Supporting the said our readiness to Answer his Expectations in Supporting the said Government, so far as in Conscience we can according to our Abilities & present Circumstances of Affairs, — Do humbly desire that It may be Enacted — And —

Be it therefore Enacted by the Governor Council and Representatives Convened in generall Assembly & by the Authority of the same — That all & every person & persons within this Government having any personal Estates either in their Possession or in the possession of others in trust for them over & besides the household goods & Implements they use & such Summes of money as they really owe or ought to pay, shall yield & pay to the use aforesaid after the Rate of One penny per pound. — And to the end that this Tax may be Laid with as much equality & indifferency as may be upon all Lands within this Government, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That all Lands & other real as also the personal Estates shall be and are hereby Charged for one year only & no longer with one Penny for every pound clear value.

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Housekeepers within this province & Territories shall be Assessed & pay after the rate of one penny per pound for their clear Estate (Ex-

cepting as is before excepted) And that all Males within this province & Territories who att the making of this Act have been out of their Servitude by the Space of Six months & shall be above the Age of Twenty one years being worth Seventy two pounds or upwards shall be assessed & pay after the Rate of one penny per pound Clear estate as aforesaid And that such of the said Males only as be not worth Seventy two pounds shall pay Six Shillings per head — Provided always that our Chief Proprietary & his Deputy in Government shall not be assessed by virtue of this Act:

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that for the effectual putting of this Act in Execution It shall and may be Lawful for all or any of the Members of Assembly within each County for which they Serve to call to their Assistance Four or more of the most Substantial Freeholders as Justices of the Peace or others as the said Members of Assembly shall see meet, & that they or the Major part of them shall within one month next after the publication hereof, meet together at such place or places within each County as they shall respectively agree upon in order to assess the Rates mentioned in this Act, And after such meeting had the said Assessors shall by Warrant from some Justice of the Peace of the proper County cause the Constables within the said County to bring in Certificates in writing of the Names of every person residing within the Limits of those places with which they shall be Charged, & of the Substances of every of them who are to be Rated by this Act, which said Constables shall be paid or allowed by the Collectors three pence per pound for their trouble therein

And the said Assessors are hereby enjoyned to ascertain & inform themselves by all Lawful means they can of the true Valuation of the clear Estates both real & personal within these Countys & Limits with which they shall be Charged respectively, & being thereof ascertained they are to assesse themselves and others for or in respect of the said Estates according to the Rates aforementioned, and thereupon the said Assessors shall cause the Respective Clerks of the Countys to draw out Lists & fair Duplicates of the said Assessments to be Signed by the said Assessors, for which the said Clerk shall be allowed Twenty Shillings respectively out of the said Assessment And the said Assessors shall appoint the Sheriff or such other person or persons of each

County as they shall Appoint to be Collectors of the said Rate, for which Service the said Assessors shall be paid & allowed by the Collectors Six pence per pound out of the said Assessment

And Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid That the said money so as aforesaid to be Levied shall be paid at Philadelphia by the respective Collectors on or before the 25th day of the Second month 1697 (Danger and Casualty Excepted) unto James Fox of Philadelphia Merchant but in Case of mortality It shall be Lawful for the Governor & Council to Appoint some other person to be the Receiver whose Receipts shall be a Sufficient discharge to such Collectors, which said Collectors for gathering the said Summs shall retain in their hands respectively for every Twenty Shillings by them paid in as aforesaid the Summe of one Shilling with such reasonable Charge as shall Appear to be one for portage of money or other pay by them Collected by virtue of this Act as a reward for their pains. And Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid That the said Receiver shall pay & dispose of the said money in manner following, That is to Say, the Sum of three hundred pounds to be paid by the said Receiver to the Governor for the time being towards the Relief of the distressed Indians Inhabiting above Albany (late Sufferers by the French) who are in Alliance with the Crown of England, And the Summe of Three hundred pounds to be by him the said Receiver paid to our present Governour William Markham towards his Service, And the Surplusage or remaining part of the said Money so to be Levyed & paid in as aforesaid shall be disposed of by the said Receiver as the Governour & Council for the time being shall order & appoint towards the defraying of the Debts & necessary Charges of this Government from time to time, a fair & true account whereof shall be rendered by the said Receiver to the Governour & Council and by the Council to the Assembly to be held next after the said Rates Raised, for all such Summs of money as shall be by him received paid or disposed of as aforesaid — And that the said Collectors shall return & fairly present to the said General Assembly the said Assessments with the Names & Several Values of the respective estates with the real Summes Levyed by this Act and also that the said Receivers Accounts of all the money and Goods by him received & disbursed by virtue of this Act, shall be by him certified to the said

Assembly, which said Receiver for their care & trouble therein shall retain in their hands for every Twenty Shillings by them received & paid as aforesaid, The Summe of Six pence.

And Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid that if any of the said Assessors, Collectors, Clerks Constables or Receivers shall refuse or neglect their respective dutys in the premises & be duly Convicted thereof, shall be fyned by the Justices of the respective County Courts in any Summ not exceeding five pounds for such use or uses as the County Court shall direct

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That if any person or persons whatsoever within this Government who shall be assessed or rated any Summ or Sums of money by virtue of this Act to be Levyed, shall deny refuse or delay to pay the same, That then it shall & may be Lawful for any such Collector by virtue of a Warrant under the hand & Seal of any one Justice of the peace for the County where such Offender shall Reside, who by virtue of this Act are required to Grant such Warrants to Levy the same by Distress and Sale of such person or persons Goods & Chattels returning the Overplus (if any be) to the Owner after the Summ assessed and disrained for with all Charges are deducted — Provided always That if any person or persons Certified Assessed and Rated for or in respect of any Estate for which by this Act he or they is or may be rated, do find him or themselves agrieved with such Rateing, and shall within a reasonable time before the same rate becomes payable, Complain to the Assessors who signed and allowed his her or their Rates, which said Assessors shall appoint a convenient time after such Complaint made & there particularly hear & examin the person or persons complaining or any others touching the value of the Complainants real & personal estate, And thereupon the said Assessors shall Abate, default, or Confirm the said Assessments according as the Complainants shall appear to be worth either by the parties own Attest or proof of others Provided also that the several Collectors shall gather and receive the respective Sums assessed as aforesaid in Current money of this province or for want thereof, in good Merchantable Counts by product at the Current Market price according to the Law of this Government at such convenient Landing places in each County as the said Assessors shall appoint.

And Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid That if any person be Sued for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, such persons so sued may plead the general Issue And give this Act and Special Matter in Evidence, And if the Plaintiff or Prosecutor shall be cast, the Defendant shall recover treble damages — Provided always that none shall be punished by virtue of this Act for any Neglect or miscarriage in the Execution thereof, but within one year after such Offence.

A.P.S., Original Laws of Pennsylvania from 1693-1700, f. 77.
H.S.P., Cadwalader Collection. Act of November 7, 1696, chapter 2.
See chapter 129, 1697.

CHAPTER 124.

THE LAW FOR RAISING COUNTY LEVIES.

Whereas there is a continual Occasion for a publick Stock to Defray the necessary Charge in each County for the Support of the Poor, building or Repairing of Prisons, Paying the Salarys belonging to the Council & Assembly, Paying for Wolfs heads, the Judges Expences & all Just Debts with many other necessary Charges,

Be it therefore Enacted by the Governour, Council and Representatives in General Assembly met That from & after the first day of the first moneth next the Justices of each County within this province & Territories at their respective Quarter Sessions to be held in the Seventh Moneth yearly, or oftner if occasion be shall with the Assistance of the respective Grand Juries and any three of the Assessors hereafter mentioned Calculate the publick Charge of the County and shall Allow all Just debts dues and accounts.

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That in each respective County within this province & Territories at the usual time & place appointed by Law for the freemens Electing their Representatives to Serve in Council & Assembly It shall & may be Lawful then & there for the said freemen to Nominate & appoint Six Assessors of the substantial freeholders in each respective County of which the Sheriff in each County, after the said Elections of Representatives is made &